

Diane Walkup

My name is Diane Walkup, dianesh112@gmail.com. And I'm affiliated with 350 Tacoma and just about anyone else and group I meet who values living things over killing things in the name of progress. I spent two and a half years bedridden after shattering my right leg. And when I got up, I was a changed person. I knew what was important. What was important was communities of people gathering together, giving moral support to each other, loving each other. I knew that clean air and clean water and nature were paramount in life - in my life. No amount of money can replace those things. They're priceless. I shortly - I went to a rally in Wright Park and it was a schoolchildren play hooky day out to discuss climate justice and climate change. I met Daniel Villa that day. I was so incredibly impressed with the children and Daniel and other speakers and the beautiful energy in that park, good energy, loving energy; no hate, no - no empty phrases, no megaphones, no body armor, no guns. And I was drawn to them like iron to a magnet, and I'm on fire now. But I don't want the Tideflats to be on fire. No. And there - mark my words, there is a fire, a storm gathering. It happened so slowly that no one noticed, increment by increment by increment, and it's upon us. A lot of it's invisible, like radiation is invisible. We don't have that down there but that's just an example. You know. You don't see copper in the water. Well, maybe you do. Because lot of these pollutants, they're with us. We live - we breathe them. We drink them. And there is a tipping point. We reached it. I have hope. I see people gathering together. I see more energy than I've seen in decades. I used to feel like a lone wolf. I'm 75 years old, but I used to feel like a lone wolf, the only one saving animals, not using toxins on my lawn. Now there's everyone. It's the new trend, thank God. And thank God for the young people, the brave young people, whose future we will help determine. And you Department of Ecology people, you're good people. You're polite. You're kind. You - actually this has been a better hearing than City of Tacoma Citizen Forum, where I end up feeling like some kind of a worm. Get her on the hook and throw her to the fish. Anyway, thank you. However, I'd like to be part of lighting a fire in your belly. You are in a position to make suggestions and to work toward some change. And we do need change. We can't put a fire out with a bucket brigade. We need some major firefighting equipment. You're smart people. Put your minds to it. Come up with new protocol. And I would love it . . . You said you generally always issue permits. I would love it if you would start denying some or make - make the guidelines so stringent that they just fold up and go away. And I guess my time's up. And I had no idea what I was going to say but it just came from my heart. Thank you.